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ABSTRACT

From the 1860s through the 1870s the U.S. frontier saw many Indian wars and skirmishes. A study and report on the conditions of the Indian tribes, released in 1867, led to an act to establish an Indian Peace Commission to end the wars and prevent future Indian conflicts. In the spring of 1868 a conference was held at Fort Laramie (Wyoming) that resulted in a treaty with the Sioux. This treaty was to bring peace between the settlers and the Sioux who agreed to locate on the Black Hills reservation in the Dakota Territory. This lesson studies the Sioux Treaty and examines the power granted to the President and the Senate in Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, of the U.S. Constitution, the power to make treaties with foreign nations. The lesson correlates to the National History Standards and to the National Standards for Civics and Government. It furnishes four primary source documents: (1) the Sioux Treaty of 1868; (2) a photograph of Spotted Tail, a Sioux chief; (3) Alfred Terry's telegram account of the Battle of Little Bighorn; and (4) a letter giving a Sioux account of Custer's defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn. The lesson provides the historical background for the treaty signing and lists four books for further reading. It outlines ten diverse teaching activities, including brainstorming, student research, document analysis, role playing, creative writing, and research and analysis. (Contains a written document analysis worksheet and a photograph analysis worksheet.) (BT)

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National Archives and Records Administration

THE CONSTITUTION COMMUNITY

Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

The Sioux Treaty of 1868

By Linda Darus Clark

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http://www.nara.gov/education/classrm.html

2001

SO 033 584

The Constitution Community is a partnership between classroom teachers and education specialists from the National Archives and Records Administration. We are developing lessons and activities that address constitutional issues, correlate to national academic standards, and encourage the analysis of primary source documents. The lessons that have been developed are arranged according to historical era.

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Sioux Treaty of 1868

Constitutional Connection

This lesson relates to the power granted to the president and the Senate in Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 , of the U.S. Constitution, the power to make treaties with foreign nations.

This lesson correlates to the National History Standards.

Era 4 -Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

- **Standard 1B** -Demonstrate understanding of federal and state Indian policy and the strategies for survival forged by Native Americans.

This lesson correlates to the National Standards for Civics and Government.

Standard III.A.1. -Explain how the U.S. Constitution grants and distributes power to national and state government and how it seeks to prevent the abuse of power.

Cross-curricular Connections

Share this exercise with your history, language arts, and government colleagues.

List of Documents

1. Sioux Treaty of 1868 (page 1 , page 2 , page 3)

2. Photograph of Spotted Tail

3. Alfred Terry's telegram account of the Battle of Little Bighorn

4. Letter from Captain John S. Poland to the Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of Dakota in Saint Paul, Minnesota, which gives an account from seven Sioux Indians of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876

Historical Background

"This war was brought upon us by the children of the Great Father who came to take our land from us without price."

> --Spotted Tail, *The report and journal of proceedings of the commission appointed to obtain certain concessions from the Sioux Indians* , December 26, 1876

The history of Native Americans in North America dates back thousands of years. Exploration and settlement of the western United States by Americans and Europeans wreaked havoc on the Indian peoples living there. In the 19th century the American drive for expansion clashed violently with the Native American resolve to preserve their lands, sovereignty, and ways of life. The struggle over land has defined relations between the U.S. government and Native Americans and is well documented in the holdings of the National Archives.

(From the American Originals exhibit script.at http://www.nara.gov/exhall/originals/sioux.html)

From the 1860s through the 1870s the American frontier was filled with Indian wars and skirmishes. In 1865 a congressional committee began a study of the Indian uprisings and wars in the West, resulting in a *Report on the Condition of the Indian Tribes* , which was released in 1867. This study and report by the congressional committee led to an act to establish an Indian Peace Commission to end the wars and prevent future Indian conflicts. The United States government set out to establish a series of Indian treaties that would force the Indians to give up their lands and move further west onto reservations.

In the spring of 1868 a conference was held at Fort Laramie, in present day Wyoming, that resulted in a treaty with the Sioux. This treaty was to bring peace between the whites and the Sioux who agreed to settle within the Black Hills reservation in the Dakota Territory.

The Black Hills of Dakota are sacred to the Sioux Indians. In the 1868 treaty, signed at Fort Laramie and other military posts in Sioux country, the United States recognized the Black Hills as part of the Great Sioux Reservation, set aside for exclusive use by the Sioux people. In 1874, however, General George A. Custer led an expedition into the Black Hills accompanied by miners who were seeking gold. Once gold was found in the Black Hills, miners were soon moving into the Sioux hunting grounds and demanding protection from the United States Army. Soon, the Army was ordered to move against wandering bands of Sioux hunting on the range in accordance with their treaty rights. In 1876, Custer, leading an army detachment, encountered the encampment of Sioux and Cheyenne at the Little Bighorn River. Custer's detachment was annihilated, but the United States would continue its battle against the Sioux in the Black Hills until the government confiscated the land in 1877. To this day, ownership of the Black Hills remains the subject of a legal dispute between the U.S. government and the Sioux.

For Further Reading

Agel, Jerome. *Words That Make America Great* . New York: Random House, 1997.

Colbert, David, ed. *Eyewitness to America* . New York: Pantheon Books, 1997.

Tindall, George Brown and Shi, David E. *America: A Narrative History* , New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1992.

Ward, Geoffrey C. *The West: An Illustrated History* . Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1996.

Teaching Activities

Brainstorming

1. Before beginning document analysis, display the picture of Spotted Tail (photo citation number 111-SC-82538) and ask students to comment. Students may use the Photo Analysis Worksheet developed by the National Archives education staff. Ask them what they can infer from the photograph. Responses may include comments about his posture and the way he is dressed. They may infer that he must be a person of some importance or that he looks serious, almost regal in his posture. Explain to students that this is a picture of a Brule Sioux chief named Spotted Tail. Ask students to speculate what his duties as chief might include. Responses should include ensuring the care and safety of his people, finding good hunting grounds, and signing treaties with the white man.

Research

2. Provide students with background information about the Sioux and their lives in the Black Hills before 1868; or, as a homework assignment prior to this lesson, ask students to research the life and history of the Sioux and report their findings to the class.

Document Analysis

3. Divide students into small groups. Photocopy the Treaty with the Sioux at Fort Laramie in 1868, and provide one set to each group, with a copy of the Written Document Analysis Worksheet developed by the National Archives education staff. Ask students to complete the analysis and share their findings with the class. This activity can also be conducted in a computer lab where groups would locate the document and worksheet on line.

4. Ask students to read through the document again and then to identify the terms agreed to by the chiefs and headmen and the terms agreed to by the agents of the United States. Lead a class discussion using the following questions: What does each side gain or lose in this treaty? Ask them to compare the signatures of the U.S. government agents and the chiefs. What is the significance of the two names of each chief or headman? What might this suggest about cultural differences between the two parties? What types of problems could these differences create? Finally, ask students to speculate on what each party hoped to accomplish through this treaty.

Role Playing

5. Students may want to speculate how such treaty negotiations would be different today. Divide the class into small groups representing either the U.S. government agents or the Indian chiefs and headmen. Ask each group to decide five key points they would emphasize in their treaty negotiations, and then instruct groups to negotiate their treaties. Once the treaties are negotiated, written, and signed, display them around the classroom for students to view. Conclude with a class discussion on the process of treaty negotiations and the difficulties encountered.

Creative Writing

6. As a creative writing activity ask students to write the speech they think Spotted Tail would give to his people explaining the treaty signing and terms of agreement. Ask for volunteers to present their speeches to the rest of the class.

7. Write the following quote from Spotted Tail and the date on the board: "This war was brought upon us by the children of the Great Father who came to take our land from us without price." December 26, 1876. Ask a student to read the quote and the date of the quote to the class. Ask students to write a paragraph explaining what this quote might suggest as to what the future held for Spotted Tail, his people, and the other chiefs who signed the treaty in 1868.

Research and Analysis

8. Ask students to write an editorial for a newspaper following the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876 taking the perspective of either the U.S. government or the Sioux.

9. Divide students into two groups. Assign one group to review Alfred Terry's telegram reporting on the Battle of Little Bighorn. Ask the other group to review the accounts of seven Sioux on the Battle of Little Bighorn. Each group should share their findings and then answer these questions: How are the accounts similar? How are they different? What do these reports say about General Custer's orders and his actions? Ask students to suggest reasons for the differences in the reports, determine which is more reliable, and consider what decisions they would have to make as historians when reviewing these documents.

10. In 1990 House bill H.R. 4660 proposed Custer Battlefield be renamed the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument and a memorial to the Indians be erected at the site. There was a hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Congressman Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado testified, as did representatives of the National Park Service and several people speaking on behalf of the Indian tribes and the Morning Star Foundation. The bill was approved on December 10, 1991, and became Public Law 102-201. Most of the major newspapers printed articles or editorials about this in 1991. They are a good source of the pro and con arguments on this change. You may want students to research this event and

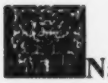
then create a readers' theater or a reenactment of the hearings. Students may also want to locate the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument web page at http://www.nps.gov/libi which is part of the National Park Service's home page.

The documents included in this project are from Record Group 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers; Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, and Record Group 393, Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920.

They are available online through the National Archives Information Locator (NAIL) database at < http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html>. Their control numbers are NWDNS-77-HQ-264-801; NWDNS-77-HQ-264-854; NWCTB-94-CORR-PI17E12-3840AGO1876; and NWCTB-393-DMO-PI172E2547-5019DMO1876. Selected photographs of Custer's 1874 Expedition are also available in NAIL, control numbers NWDNS-77-HQ-264-801 and NWDNS-77-HQ-264-854. NAIL is a searchable database that contains information about a wide variety of NARA holdings across the country. You can use NAIL to search record descriptions by keywords or topics and retrieve digital copies of selected textual documents, photographs, maps, and sound recordings related to thousands of topics.

The 1868 treaty is also featured in the online American Originals Exhibit at http://www.nara.gov/exhall/originals/sioux.html .

This article was written by Linda Darus Clark, a teacher at Padua Franciscan High School in Parma, Ohio.



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Photograph Analysis Worksheet

Step 1. Observation

A. Study the photograph for 2 minutes. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine individual items. Next, divide the photo into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible.

B. Use the chart below to list people, objects, and activities in the photograph.

PEOPLE	OBJECTS	ACTIVITIES

Step 2. Inference

Based on what you have observed above, list three things you might infer from this photograph.

_____

_____

_____

Step 3. Questions

A. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

_____

_____

B. Where could you find answers to them?

_____

_____

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Written Document Analysis Worksheet

1. TYPE OF DOCUMENT (Check one):

___ Newspaper	___ Map	___ Advertisement
___ Letter	___ Telegram	___ Congressional record
___ Patent	___ Press release	___ Census report
___ Memorandum	___ Report	___ Other

2. UNIQUE PHYSICAL QUALITIES OF THE DOCUMENT (Check one or more):

___ Interesting letterhead	___ Notations
___ Handwritten	___ "RECEIVED" stamp
___ Typed	___ Other
___ Seals	

3. DATE(S) OF DOCUMENT: _____

4. AUTHOR (OR CREATOR) OF THE DOCUMENT: _____

POSITION (TITLE): _____

5. FOR WHAT AUDIENCE WAS THE DOCUMENT WRITTEN? _____

_____

6. DOCUMENT INFORMATION (There are many possible ways to answer A-E.)

A. List three things the author said that you think are important:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. Why do you think this document was written?

_____

_____

C. What evidence in the document helps you know why it was written? Quote from the document.

_____

_____

D. List two things the document tells you about life in the United States at the time it was written:

_____

_____

E. Write a question to the author that is left unanswered by the document:

_____

_____

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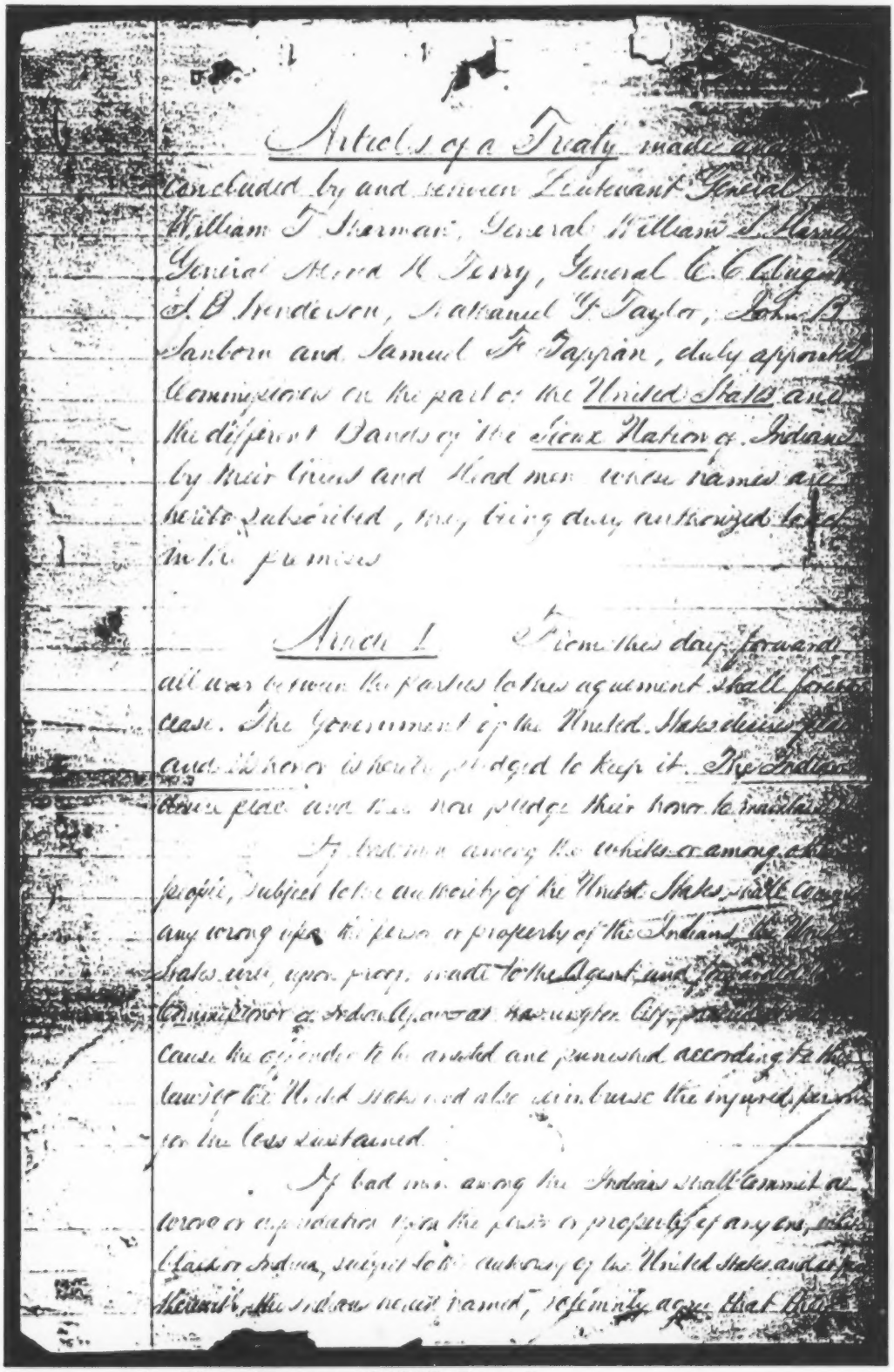

Articles of a Treaty made and
concluded by and between Lieutenant General
William T Sherman, General William S Harney,
General Alfred H Terry, General C C Augur,
J B Henderson, Nathaniel G Taylor, John B S
Sanborn and Samuel F Tappan, duly appointed
Commissioners on the part of the United States and
the different Bands of the Sioux Nation of Indians
by their Chiefs and Head men whose names are
hereto subscribed, they being duly authorized to act
in the premises

Article 1 From this day forward
all war between the parties to this agreement shall forever
cease. The Government of the United States desires peace,
and its honor is hereby pledged to keep it. The Indians
desire peace and they now pledge their honor to maintain it.

If bad men among the whites or among other
people, subject to the authority of the United States shall commit any
wrong upon the person or property of the Indians the United
States will, upon proof made to the Agent and forwarded to the
Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington City, proceed at once to
cause the offender to be arrested and punished according to the
laws of the United States and also reimburse the injured person
for the loss sustained.

If bad men among the Indians shall commit a
wrong or depredation upon the person or property of any one, white,
black or Indian, subject to the authority of the United States and at
peace therewith, the Indians herein named, solemnly agree that they

Document 1: Sioux Treaty of 1868, Page 1.

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between the respective parties hereto, so far as such treaties and agreements obligate the United States to annuity and provide money, clothing or other articles of property to such Indians and Bands of Indians as become parties to this Treaty, but no further.

In Testimony of all which we the said Commissioners and we the Chiefs and Headmen of the Brulé Band of the Sioux Nation have hereunto set our hands and seals at Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory this twenty ninth day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty Eight

[illegible] (Seal)

[illegible] (Seal)

[illegible] (Seal)

John B. Sanborn (Seal)

S. F. Tappan (Seal)

E. C. Augur (Seal)
Brt. Maj. Gen. U.S.A.

[illegible] (Seal)

(Seal)

Attest:
[illegible]
Secretary

Document 1: Sioux Treaty of 1868, Page 2

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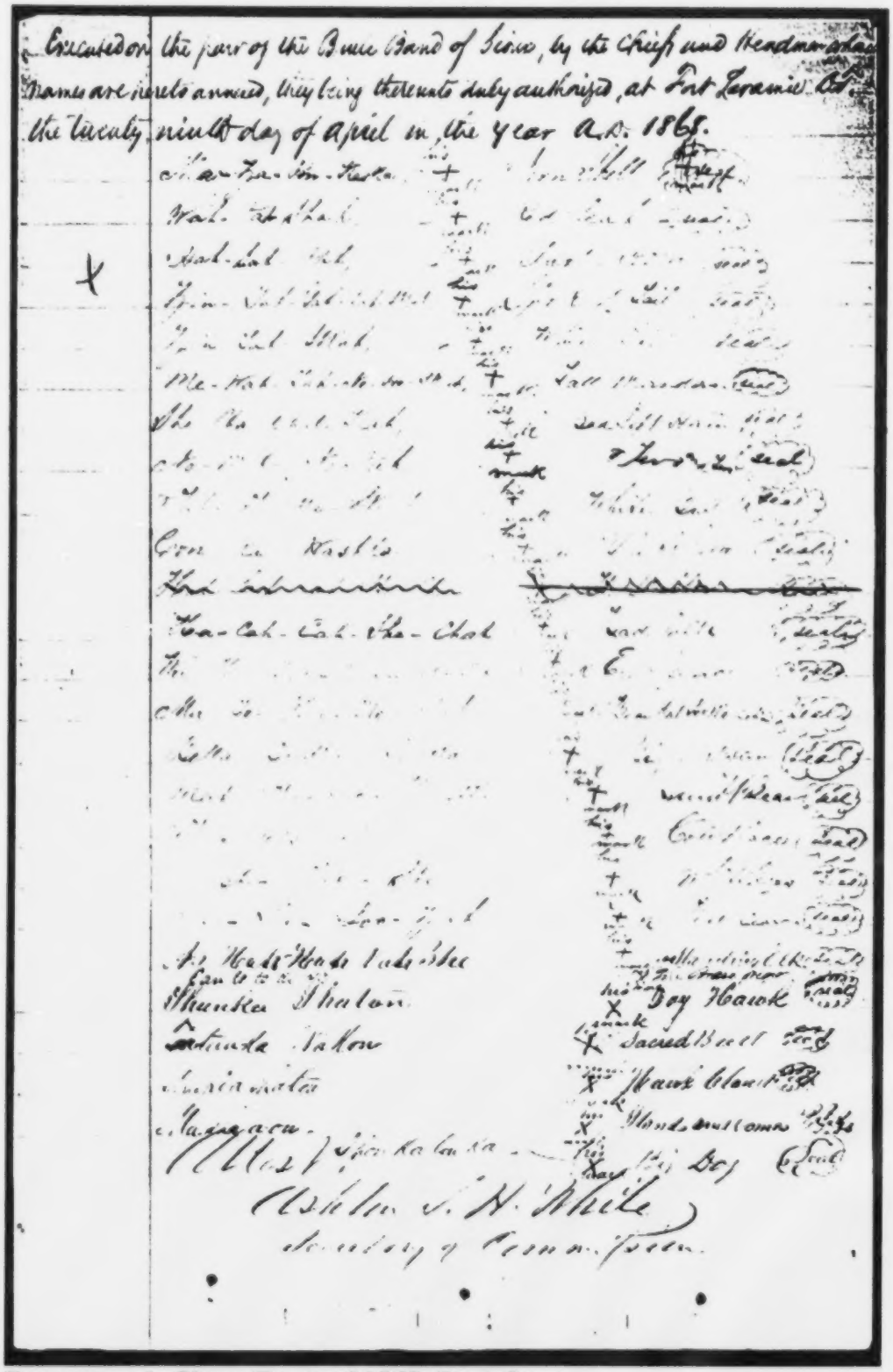

Executed on the part of the Brule Band of Sioux, by the Chiefs and Headmen whose names are hereto annexed, they being thereunto duly authorized, at Fort Laramie, on the lands the locality, ninth day of April in the year A.D. 1868.

Boy Hawk

Jacob Bear

Hawk Bear

Woman Walks

Boy

William S. N. Wells

Secretary of Commission

Document 1: Sioux Treat of 1868, Page 3

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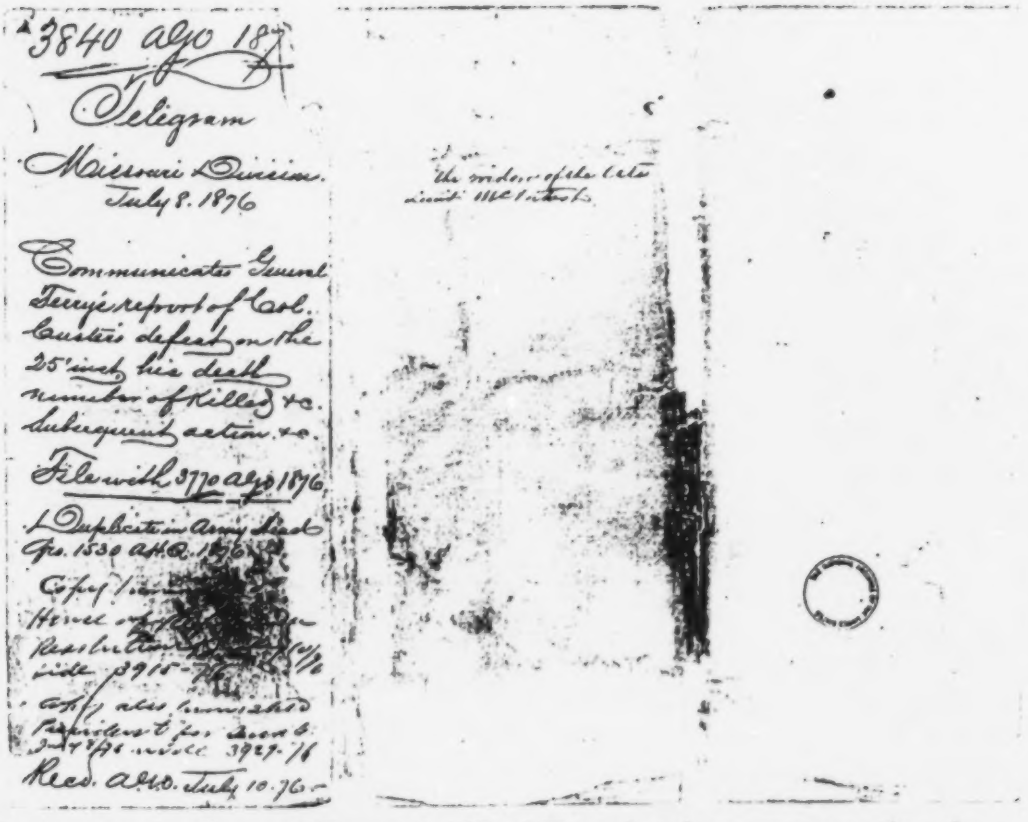
Document 2: Photograph of Spotted Tail



3840 AGO 187[illegible]

Telegram

Missouri Division.
July 8. 1876

Communicates General Terry's report of Col. Custer's defeat on the 25th inst. his death number of Killed &c. subsequent action &c.

File with 3770 AGO 1876

Duplicate in Army Book No. 1530 AHQ. 1876

Copy [illegible]

Recd. A.G.O. July 10. 76

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer. Endorsement.

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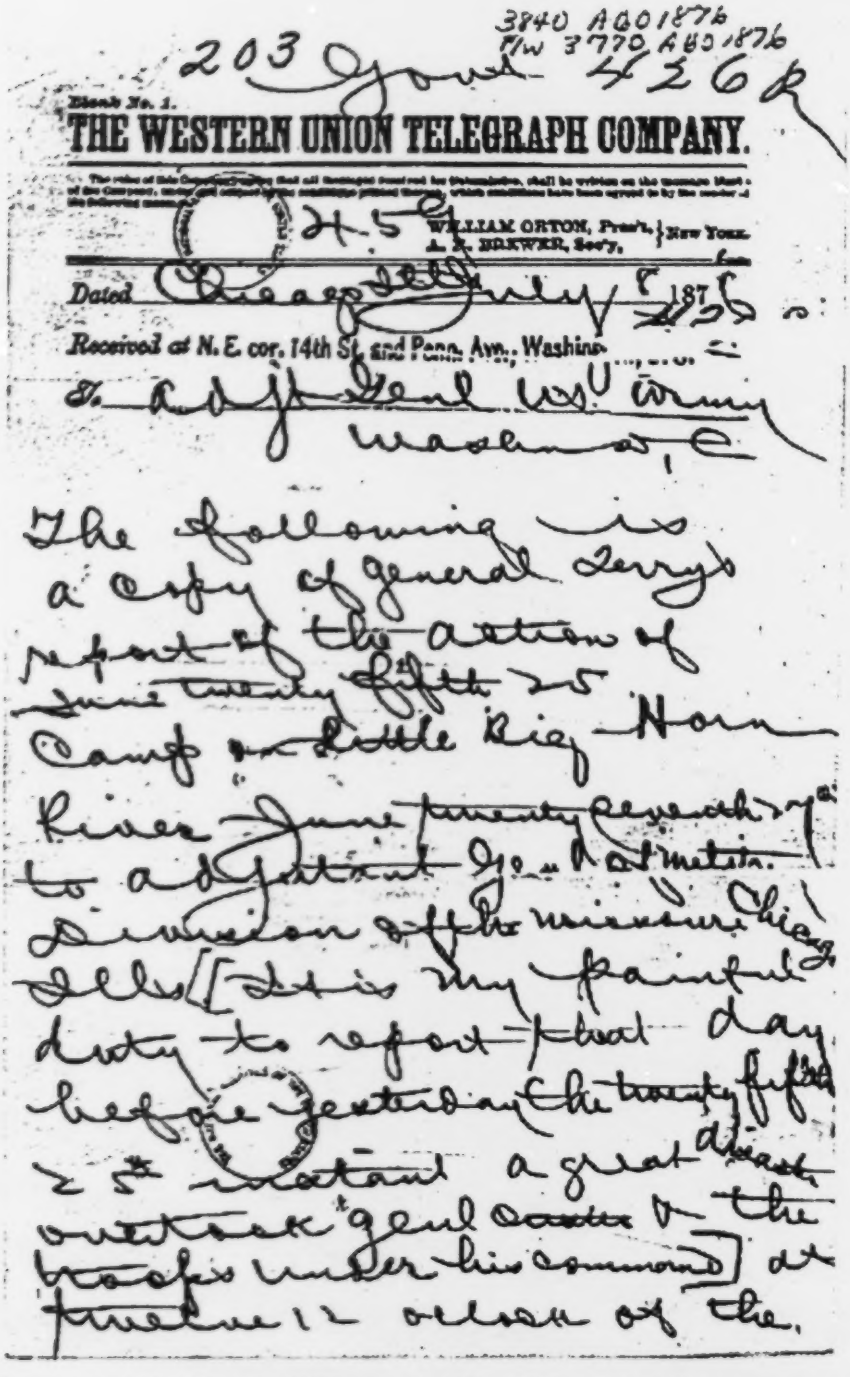

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THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. } NEW YORK.
A. B. CHEWER, Sec'y.

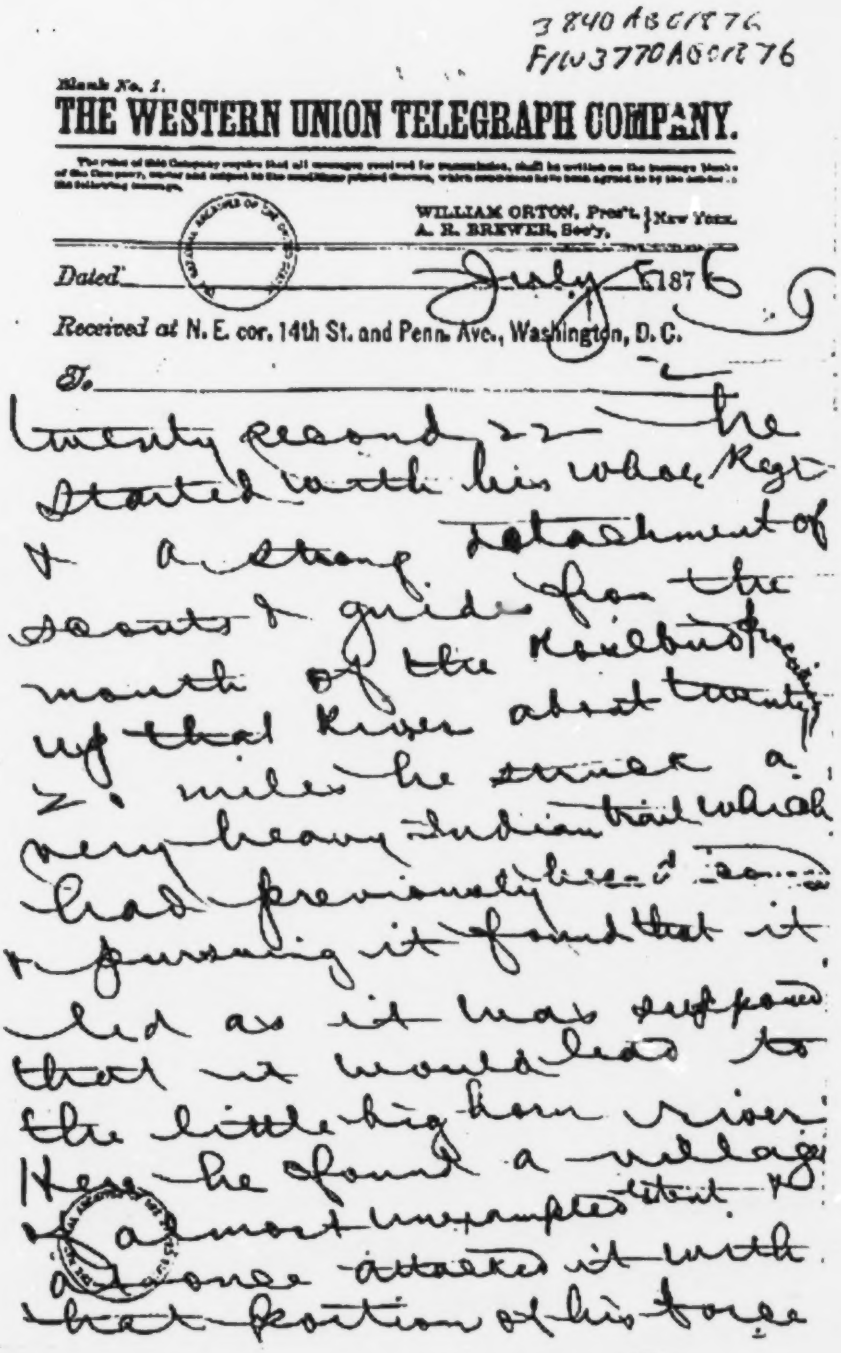
Dated Chicago July 5 1876

Received at N.E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington

To Adjt Genl US Army
Washington D.C.

The following is a copy of General Terry's report of the action of June twenty fifth 25 Camp on Little Big Horn River June twenty seventh 27 to Adjutant Genl Dept of Dakota. Division of the missouri Chicago Ills [It is my painful duty to report that day before yesterday the twenty fifth & 25th instant a great disaster overtook Genl Custer & the troops under his command & resulted in defeat of the.

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 1



3840 A8 C18 76
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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. } New York.
A. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

Dated July 5 1876

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To

twenty seconds — the
started with his whole Regt
& a strong detachment of
scouts & guides from the
mouth of the Rosebud up
up that River about twenty
½ miles he struck a
very heavy Indian trail which
had previously been
pursuing it found that it
led as it was supposed
that it would lead to
the little big horn river
Here he found a village
almost unexampled
& once attacked it with
that portion of his force

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 2

3840 AGO 1876
Fld 3770 AGO 1876

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Dated July 8 187 6

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To 3

which was immediately at hand
Maj Reno with three Cos.
A Dy. and M of
the Regiment was sent to
the valley of the stream
at the point where the
trail struck it Gen Custer
with five companies C E
I I I L attempted
to enter it about three
miles lower down. Reno
forded the River charged down
it to its left front dismounted
& fought on foot until found
completely overwhelmed by

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 3

3240 AGO 1876 TL
FHW377 DHG 01 6TL

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THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. } NEW YORK.

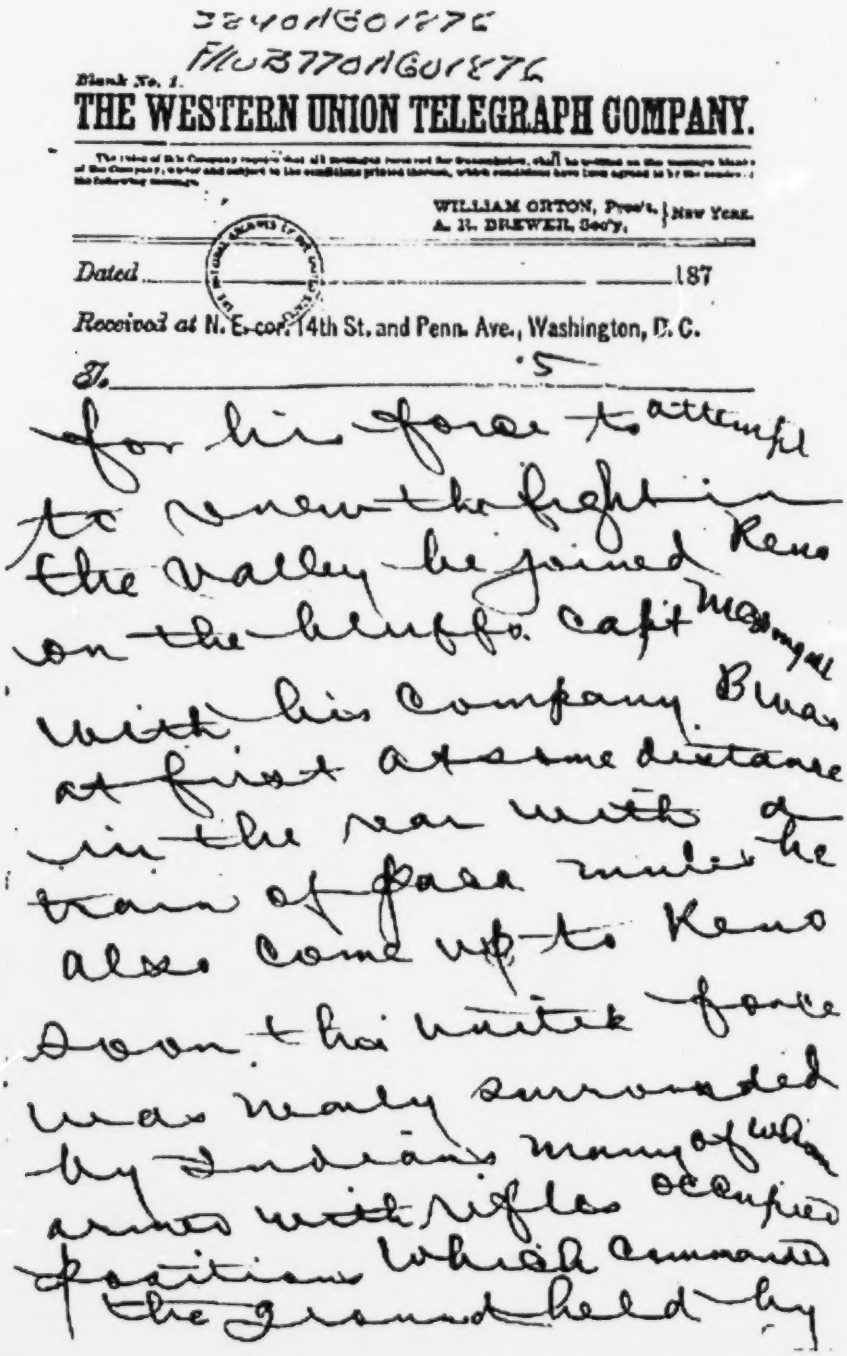
Dated July 5 187 6

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To

numbers he was compelled to mount recrossed the river regain a refuge on the high bluffs which overlooks its right bank just as he received report Benteen who with three Cos. D H & K was some two or three miles to the left of Reno when Custer attacked and who had command but who had been ordered by Gen. Custer to return came to the river & rightly considering that it was useless

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 4



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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. A. B. DREWELL, Sec'y. NEW YORK.

Dated _____ 187

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To _____ 5

for his force to attempt
to crown the high in
the valley he joined Reno
on the bluffs. Capt McDougall
with his company Benn
at first at some distance
in the rear with a
train of pack mules the
also came up to Reno
Down the creek force
was nearly surrounded
by Indians many of who
armed with rifles occupied
positions which commanded
the ground held by

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 5

3340 NG01876
FILE 3770 AB01876

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A. B. BREWER, Sec'y.

Dated 6 187

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To

the Cavalry ground from which
there was no escape. Rifle
pits were dug & the
fight was maintained though
with heavy loss from
about half past two o'clock
of the twenty fifth to 5
till 11 o'clock on the
twenty sixth when
the Indians withdrew from
the valley taking with
them their village of
the monuments of Genl
Custer & the five companies
under his immediate command
Scarcely anything is known

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 6

38HOAG01876
FHW 377OAG01876

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A. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

Dated _____ 187

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To _____

from those who witnessed
them for no officer or
soldier who accompanied
him has yet been found
alive. His trail from the
point where reno crossed
the stream passes along
the ridge in the rear of the
crest of the bluffs on the
right bank for nearly or
quite three miles then it
comes down to the bank
of the river but at
once emerges from it as
if he had unsuccessfully
attempted to cross them.

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 7

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3840 AG 0187 L
FW 3770 AG 0187 L

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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't, A. B. PAEWER, Sec'y. | New York.

Dated _____ 187

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To _____ 8

turns upon itself almost
completes a circle & closes
It is marked by the
remains of the officers &
the bodies of his horses
nine of them dropped along
the path others scraped
where halts appear to
have been made there
is abundant evidence
that a gallant resistance
was offered by the troops
but they were beset on
all sides by overpowering
numbers. The officers known
to be killed are Genl

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 8

3840AGO1876
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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. } NEW YORK.
A. B. BREWER, Sec'y.

Dated _____ 187

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To _____

Custer Capts Keogh Yates
& Custer Lieuts Cook
Smith Macintosh Calhoun
Porter Hodgson Sturgis
& Reilly of the Cavalry
Lieut Crittenden of the
Twentieth & July Dead
acting Asst Surgeon
Lieut Harrington of the
Cavalry & asst Surgeon
Lord are missing. Captain
Benteen & Lieut Varnum
of the Cavalry are slightly

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 9

384 C AGQ 1876
Fld 377 ONBO 1876

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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. A. B. BREWER, Sec'y. } New York.

Dated _____ 187

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To _____ '10

Wounded. Mr Boston Custer a brother & Mr Reed a nephew of Genl Custer were with him & were killed. No other officers than those whom I have named are among the killed wounded & missing. It is impossible as yet to obtain a reliable list of the enlisted men who were killed & wounded but the number of killed

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 10

3840 1801876
HW3770A01876

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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. } NEW YORK.

Dated _____ 187

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To _____ 11

including officers must reach two Hundred & fifty 250. the number of wounded is fifty one 51 at the mouth of the Rosebud I informed Gen custer that I should take the supply steamer Far West up the yellow Stone to Jerry Gen Gibbons Column over the river that I should personally ass that column & that it would in all probability reach the mouth of the Little Big Horn on the

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 11

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THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. A. B. BREWER, Sec'y. } New York.

Dated _____ 187 6

Received at N.E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To _____

Twenty fifth 25 6 in the camp
the Indians reached gen
Gibbons column near the
mouth of the Big Horn early
in the morning of the
twenty fourth 24 & at
four 4 o'clock in the
afternoon all his mounted
animals were across the
yellow stone at three 3
o'clock the column consisting
of five 5 companies of
the Seventh 7 Infantry
four 4 companies of the
Second 2 Cavalry & a

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 12

3840 AGO 1876
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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. } New York.

Dated _____ 187

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To _____

Battery of three Gatling guns marched out to across Tullocks Creek starting soon after five o'clock in the morning of the twenty fifth U.S. The infantry made a march of twenty two miles over the most difficult country which I have ever seen in order that scouts might be sent into the valley of the little big horn the cavalry with the battery was then

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 13

3740NG01871
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THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. } New York.

Dated _____ 187

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To _____ 14

Dated on the thirteen 13
or fourteen 14 miles
further reaching camp
at midnight the scouts
were set out at half
past four in the morning
of the twenty sixth 26
the scout discovered
three Indians who
were at first supposed
be white but when
overtaken they proved
to be Crows who had
been with general custer
they brought the first

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 14

3840 AGO 1876
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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. } NEW YORK.
A. B. BREWER, Sec'y.

Dated July 6 1876

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To. 15

intelligence of the battle
this story was not
credited it was supposed
that some fighting perhaps
severe fighting had taken
place but it was not
believed that disaster
could have overtaken
so large a force as
twelve 12 Companies
of Cavalry - The infantry
which had been Camp
very Early soon came
up and the whole

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THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The rules of this Company require that all messages repeated for transmission, shall be written on the Company's blank; of the Company's, below and subject to the conditions printed thereon, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender; the following message.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't, A. R. BURNWELL, Sec'y. | NEW YORK.

Dated July 5 1876

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To 16

Column Entered and
Moved up the valley of
the Little Big Horn during
the afternoon. Efforts
were made to send Cous
through to what was
supposed to be Gens
Custers position and
to obtain information
of the Condition of
affairs but those who
were sent out were
driven back by parties
of Indians who in
increasing numbers
were seen hovering in
General Gibbons front

16

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 16

3840AG01876
FRN 3770AG01876

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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. A. B. CHEWER, Sec'y. } NEW YORK.

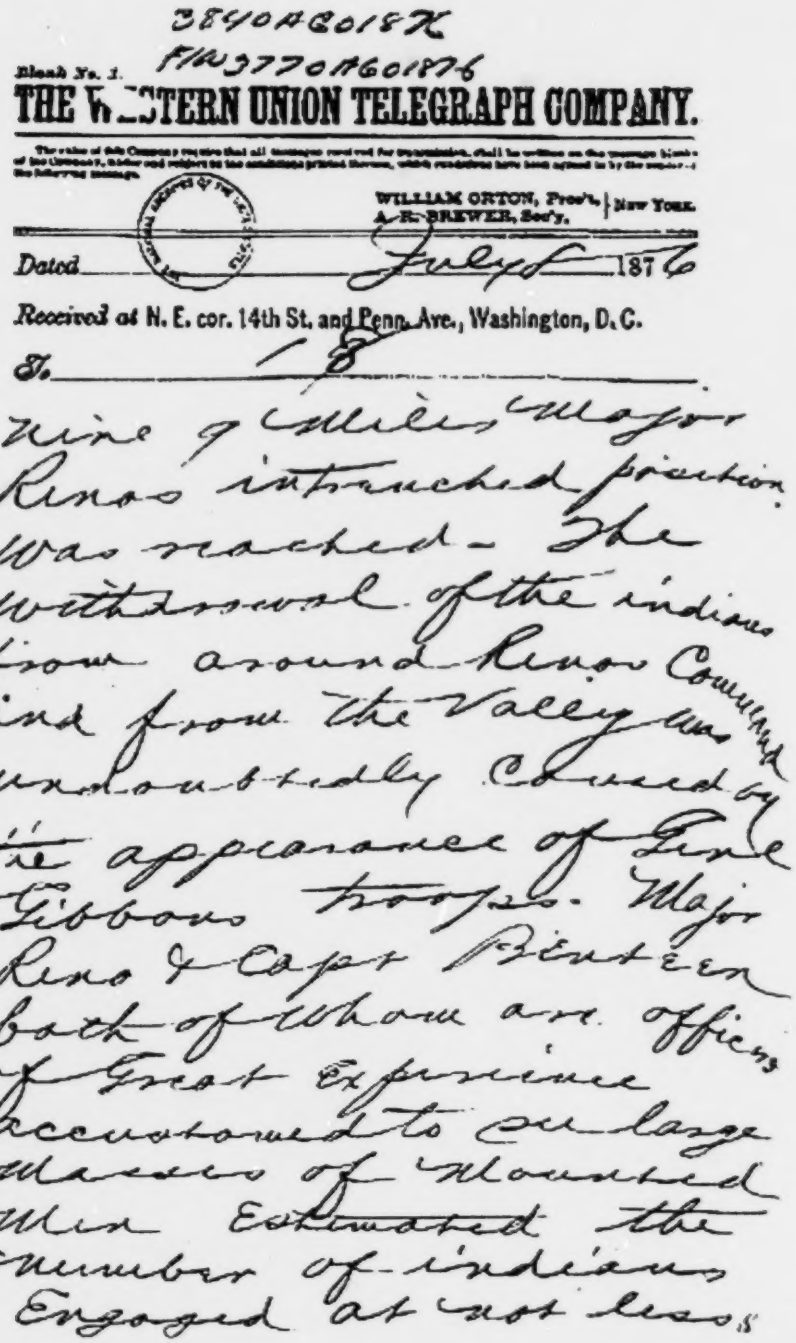
Dated July 6 1876

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To 17

at twenty minutes before nine o'clock in the Evening the infantry had marched between twenty nine 29 and thirty 30 miles the men were very weary and daylight was failing the Column was therefore halted for the night at a point about Eleven 11 Miles in a Straight line above the mouth of the Stream this morning the Movement was resumed and after a March of

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 17



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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. | NEW YORK.
A. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

Dated July 5 1876

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To 8

Nine miles Major Reno intrenched position. Was reached - The withdrawal of the indians from around Reno Command and from the Valley was undoubtedly caused by the appearance of Genl Gibbons troops. Major Reno & Capt Nineteen both of whom are officers of Great Experience accustomed to our large masses of Mounted men Estimated the number of indians Engaged at not less 8

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3840AGO 187K

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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. | New York.
A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. |

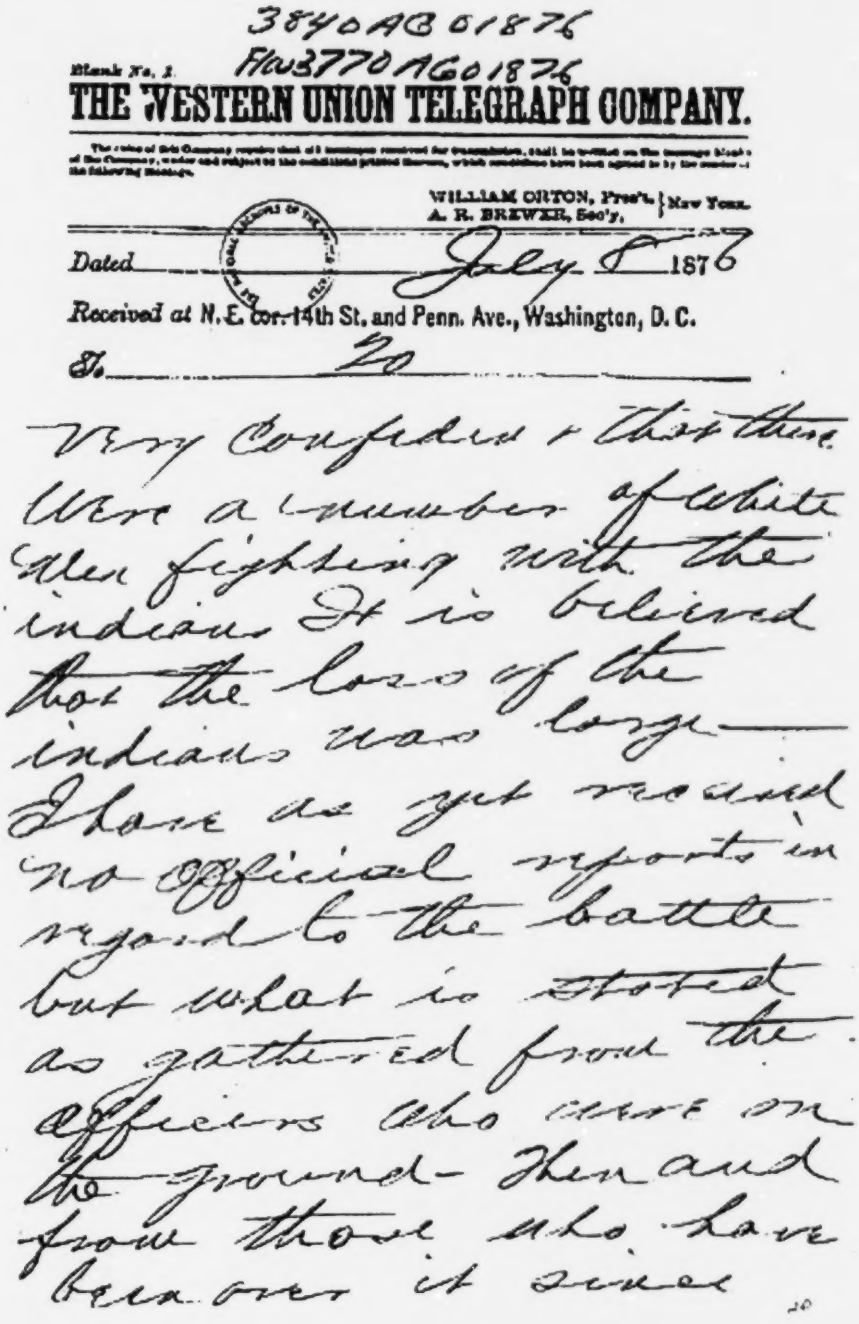
Dated July 6 1876

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To 19

than twenty five hundred
2500 other Officers
think that the number
was greater than this
The village in the valley
was about three miles
in length and about
a mile in width besides
the lodges proper a great
number of temporary
brushwood shelter was
found in it indicating
that many men besides
its proper inhabitants
had gathered together
there — Major Reno is

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 19



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Hdw3770 AG01876

Blank No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. | New York.
A. R. BREWER, Sec'y.

Dated July 5 1876

Received at N.E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To 20

Very Confuded + that there
Were a number of white
Men fighting with the
Indians It is believed
that the loss of the
Indians was large—
I have as yet received
no official reports in
regard to the battle
but what is stated
as gathered from the
officers who were on
the ground- Then and
from those who have
been over it since

20

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 20

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WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't. | New York.
ANSON STEWART, Sec'y.

Dated July 5 187 6

Received at N. E. cor. 14th St. and Penn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

To 21

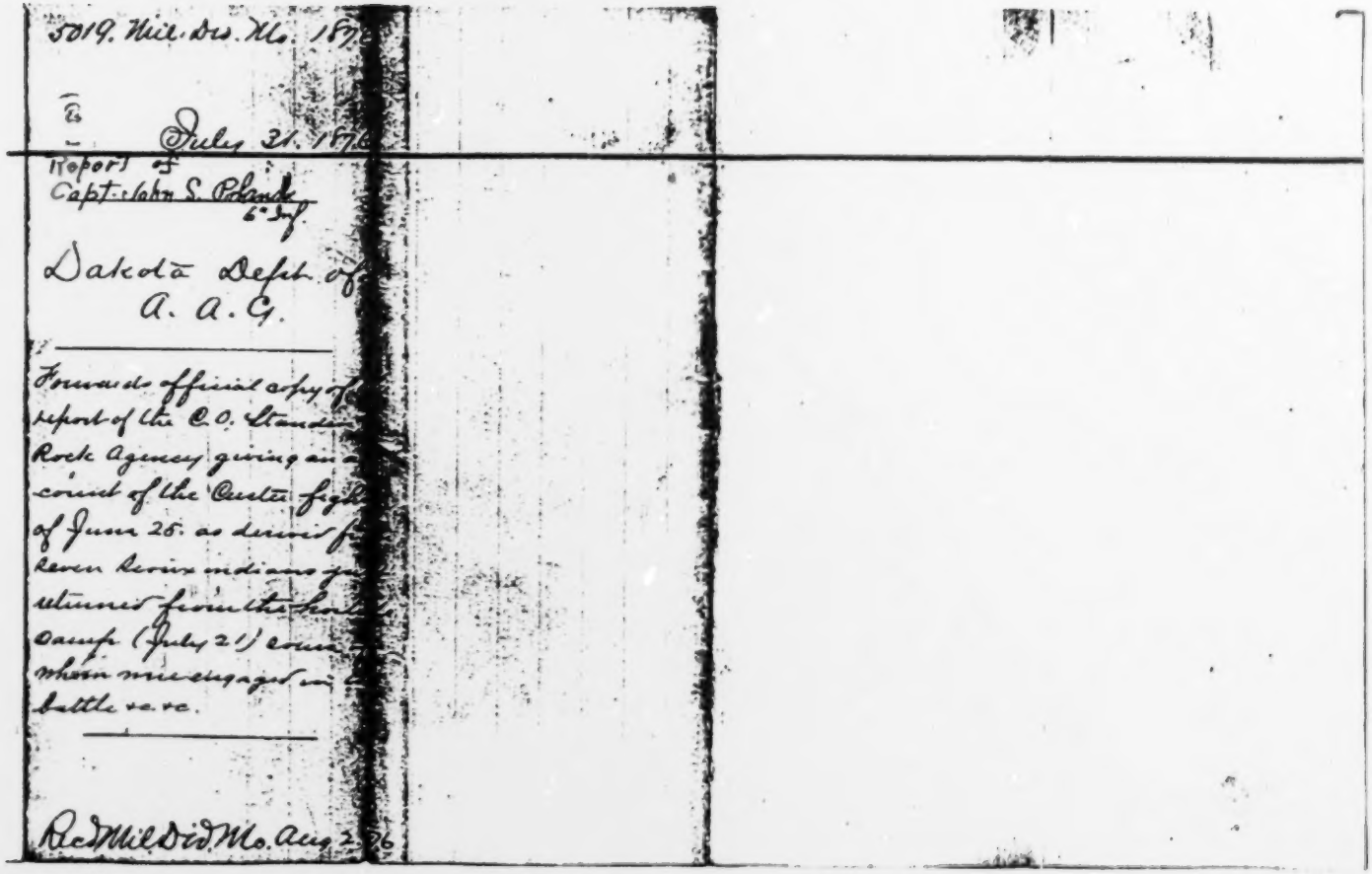
Signed Alfred H
Terry Brig Genl

R. C. Drum
A A G

134 Waldgorm St

21

Document 3: Copy of General Alfred Terry's telegram reporting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25, 1876, and the defeat of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, Page 21


5019. Mil. Div. Mo. 187

July 21. 1876

Report of
Capt. John S. Poland
6th Inf.

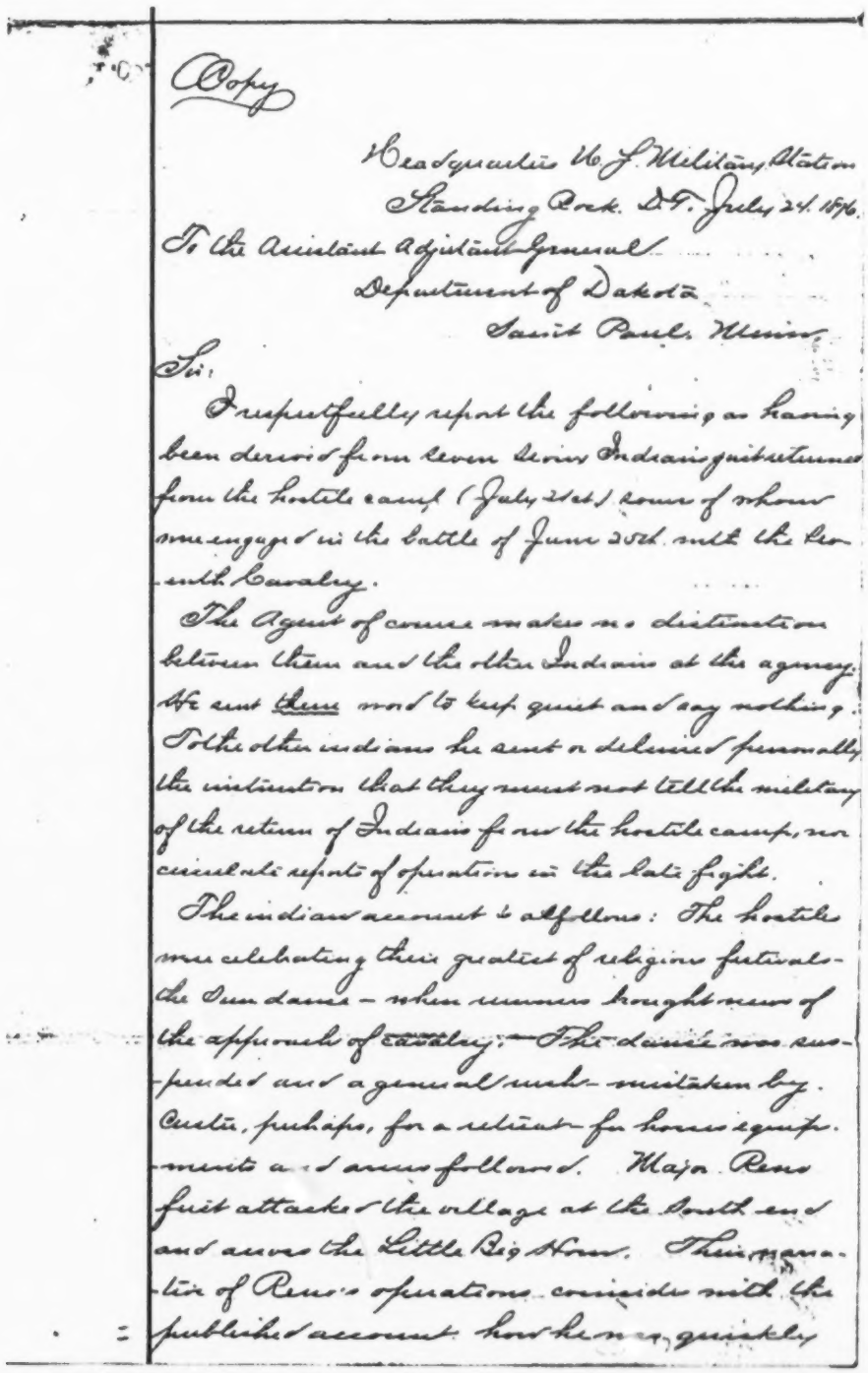
Dakota Dept. of
A. A. G.

Forwards official copy of
report of the C.O. Standing
Rock Agency, giving an a
count of the Custer fight
of June 25. as dictated by
seven Sioux Indians ar
ultimately from the hostile
camp (July 21) coming
where messengers sent
battle re re.

Rec'd Mil Div Mo. Aug 2 76

Document 4: Letter from Captain John S. Poland to the Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of Dakota in Saint Paul, Minnesota, which gives an account from seven Sioux Indians of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, Endorsement

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



Copy

Headquarters U.S. Military Station
Standing Rock D.T. July 24. 1876.

To the Assistant Adjutant General
Department of Dakota
Saint Paul, Minn.

Sir:

I respectfully report the following as having been derived from seven Sioux Indians just returned from the hostile camp (July 23rd) some of whom were engaged in the battle of June 25th with the Seventh Cavalry.

The Agent of course makes no distinction between them and the other Indians at the agency. We sent them word to keep quiet and say nothing. To the other indians he sent a delicate personally the intention that they must not tell the military of the return of Indians from the hostile camp, nor circulate reports of operations in the late fight.

The indian account is as follows: The hostiles were celebrating their greatest of religious festivals - the Sun dance - when runners brought news of the approach of cavalry. The dance was suspended and a general rush - mistaken by Custer, perhaps, for a retreat - for horses equipments and arms followed. Major Reno first attacked the village at the South end and across the Little Big Horn. This manoeuvre of Reno's operations coincides with the published account how he was quickly

Document 4: Letter from Captain John S. Poland to the Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of Dakota in Saint Paul, Minnesota, which gives an account from seven Sioux Indians of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, Page 1

confronted, surrounded, how he dismounted, rallied on the timber, remounted and cut his way back over the ford and up the bluffs with considerable loss; and the continuation of the fight for some little time, when runners arrived from the north end of the village, a camp with the news that the cavalry had attacked the north end of the same, three or four miles distant.

The indians about Reno had not before this the slightest intimation of fighting at any other point. A force large enough to prevent Reno from assuming the offensive was left and the complete available force flew to the other end of the Camp, when finding the indians there successfully driving Custer before them, instead of uniting with them, they separated into two parties and moved around the flanks of his cavalry. They report that he crossed the river but only succeeded in reaching the edge of the indian camp. After he was driven to the bluffs the fight lasted perhaps an hour. Indians have no hours of the day, and the time cannot be given approximately.

They report that a small number of cavalry broke through the line of indians in their rear and escaped, but were overtaken, within a distance of five or six miles, and killed. I infer from this that this body of retreating cavalry was probably led by the missing officers, and that they tried to escape only after Custer fell.

Document 4: Letter from Captain John S. Poland to the Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of Dakota in Saint Paul, Minnesota, which gives an account from seven Sioux Indians of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, Page 2

2

The last man that was killed, was killed by his sons of a Santee indian "Red Top" who was a leader in the Minnesota massacre of '62 & '63

After the battle the squaws entered the field to plunder and mutilate the dead. A general rejoicing was indulged in, and a distribution of arms and ammunition hurriedly made. Then the attack on Maja Bend was vigorously renewed. Up to this attack, the indians had lost comparatively few men, but now, they say, their most serious loss took place. They give no idea of numbers, but say there was a great great many. Sitting Bull was neither killed nor personally engaged in the fight. He remained in the Council tent directing operations. Crazy Horse) with a large band) and Black Moon were the principal leaders on the 25th. of June. Kill Eagle, Chief of the Blackfeet, at the head of some twenty lodges left the agency about the last of May. He was prominently engaged in the battle of June 25. and afterwards upbraided Sitting Bull for not taking an active personal part in the engagement. Kill Eagle has sent me word that he was forced into the fight, that he desires to return to the agency, and that he will return to the agency if he is killed for it. He is now posted actually on the warpath to go to his old father the agent, and make confession; to receive absolution for his defiant crimes against the laws

Document 4: Letter from Captain John S. Poland to the Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of Dakota in Saint Paul, Minnesota, which gives an account from seven Sioux Indians of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, Page 3

that has gratuitously fed him for three years. He is truly a shrewd chief, who must have discerned that he who fights and runs away may live to fight another day.

The indians were not all engaged at any one time, heavy rumors were held to repair loss and renew attacks successively. The fight continued until the third day when runners, kept purposely on the lookout, hurried into camp and reported a great body of troops (General Terry's column) advancing up the river.

Lodges having been previously prepared for a move, a retreat in a southerly direction, followed, towards and along the base of the Rosebud mountains. They marched about fifty miles, went into camp and held a consultation, when it was determined to send into all the agencies reports of their success and to call upon them to come out and share the glories that must be expected in the future. Wherefore, we may expect an influx of embracing and independent Indians to urge, by force perhaps, an answer to Sitting Bulls demands.

There is a general gathering in the hostile camps from each of the agencies on the Yellowstone River, Red Cloud and Spotted Tails, as also a great many northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes (Lots - a great many)

They report for the especial benefit of their

Document 4: Letter from Captain John S. Poland to the Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of Dakota in Saint Paul, Minnesota, which gives an account from seven Sioux Indians of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, Page 4

relates here, that in the three (3) fights they have had with the whites they have captured over 400 stand of arms, carbines and rifles (revolvers not counted) and ammunition without end, some sugar, coffee, bacon and hardtack. They claim to have captured from the whites, this summer, over 900 horses and mules. I suppose this includes operations against soldiers, Crow Indians and Black Hills, Miners.

The general outline of this Indian report coincides with the published reports. The first attack of Reno began well on in the day, say the Indians. They report about 300 whites killed. They do not say how many Indians were killed.

A report from another source says the Indians obtained from Custer command 532 carbines and revolvers.

I hear, since writing the above here and the following from the returned hostiles. They communicated, as a secret to their particular friends here, the information that a large party of Sioux and Cheyennes were to leave Powder River mountains, or the hostile camp, for this Agency, to intimidate and compel the Indians here to give Sitting Bull; and if they refused, they are to use it to soldier them (beat them) and steal their ponies. Of course any resistance to their attempts by the

Document 4: Letter from Captain John S. Poland to the Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of Dakota in Saint Paul, Minnesota, which gives an account from seven Sioux Indians of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, Page 5

military a white will persuade an attack upon the post, although that event, as far as I have not been revealed to friends of the military.

I shall report any additional news received from reliable Indian sources as soon as obtained.

Very respectfully
Your Obedient Servant.
(Signed) J. S. Poland
Captain 6th Infantry
Brevet Lieut Col. U.S.A.
Commanding.

Headquarters Dept. of Dakota
St Paul, Minn. July 26, 1876.

Official copy respectfully forwarded to Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri for the information of the Lieutenant General.

(Sgd) Geo. D. Ruggles
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

In the absence of the Dept. Commdr.

Official Copy. for file.

Asst. Adjt. Genl.

Document 4: Letter from Captain John S. Poland to the Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of Dakota in Saint Paul, Minnesota, which gives an account from seven Sioux Indians of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, Page 6